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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Acreage Indicated Below Last Year's Low

Farmers planting intentions, March 1, indicate a total crop acreage this year of about 333 million acres. This would be the smallest total in 40 years, nearly one million acres under the 1957 low level. Indications are from Crop Reporting Board's "Prospective Plantings for 1958."

Fewer Feed Grain Acres, More for Food

Feed grain acreage, indicated at about 155 million acres, will be significantly smaller than in 1957. Prospects are for less average in sorghums, oats and barley than last year, but more corn. Food grain acreage will exceed last year's total with the winter wheat acreage increase already in evidence augmented by smaller gains in spring wheat and rice. Soybean acreage again will be sharply increased.

Principal Reductions from Last Year

A big prospective drop is in sorghums, about 3.4 million acres less than last year. This 13-percent decline, however, would leave the sorghum acreage 48 percent above the 10-year average. Oats also may be decreased by 3.4 million acres; total would be 8 percent less than plantings last year, 10 percent under average, and the lowest of any year since 1940. Barley may be reduced by one-half million acres, 3 percent under last year but 29 percent above average. Flaxseed may be reduced nearly a million acres, 17 percent from last year but close to the 10-year average. Small acreage reductions are likely for tobacco, peanuts, and sugar beets.

Here is a rundown of prospective acreages, showing the percentage change for this year compared with last year:

Crop	Planted 1957	Indicated 1958	Increase or Decrease
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Corn, all.....	73,985	75,143	101.6
All spring wheat.....	12,384	12,588	101.6
Durum	2,365	1,179	49.9
Other spring	10,019	11,409	113.9
Oats.....	43,020	39,658	92.2
Barley.....	16,537	16,034	97.0
Flaxseed.....	5,562	4,607	82.8
Rice.....	1,370	1,456	106.3
Sorghums.....	26,958	23,519	87.2
Potatoes, all	1,419	1,424	100.3
Sweet potatoes	292	294	100.7
Tobacco.....	1,123	1,096	97.6
Beans, dry edible	1,464	1,544	105.5
Peas, dry field.....	284	249	87.7
Soybeans.....	21,804	23,985	110.0
Peanuts	1,805	1,795	99.4
Hay.....	73,776	72,533	98.3
Sugar Beets.....	918	915	99.7

Nearly 7 Million Acres More Wheat

A total of 56.5 million acres of all wheat is indicated by combining the intended seeded acreage of spring wheat with the acreage of winter wheat already planted. This is an increase of 6.6 million acres from the 49.9 million acres planted for the 1957 wheat crop.

Although the indicated 12.6 million acres of spring wheat is about 2 percent more than last year, it is the second smallest acreage of record; 10-year average is 19.4 million acres seeded to all spring wheat. The relatively small acreage to be seeded reflects grower participation in the acreage reserve program, with nearly 1 million acres of spring wheat land enrolled in the Soil Bank through March 7 and an additional half million acres offered for participation.

Prospects for Larger Wheat Crop

If yields per planted acre this year equal the 1952-56 average, by States, and acreage planted equals that indicated by farmers as of March 1.

Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices
	Jan. 15 1958	Feb. 15 1958	February 1958
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.)	27.37	24.91	38.08
Wheat (bu.)	1.90	1.92	2.39
Rice (100 lb.)	5.01	5.02	5.89
Corn (bu.) .....	.931	.958	1.74
Peanuts (lb.)	9.79	9.64	13.0
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Butterfat in cream (lb.)	59.0	59.4	74.9
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.)	4.42	¹ 4.31	4.98
Wool (lb.)	² 45.5	² 44.4	69.8
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.) .....	.855	.867	1.34
Cottonseed (ton)	51.20	49.90	68.90
Flaxseed (bu.)	2.95	2.84	4.29
Hay, baled (ton)	19.00	18.70	25.50
Oats (bu.) .....	.613	.611	.873
Potatoes (cwt.)	1.76	2.12	2.42
Rye (bu.) .....	.937	.958	1.58
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.)	1.63	1.62	2.63
Soybeans (bu.)	2.05	2.05	3.00
Sweetpotatoes (cwt.)	5.16	5.42	5.44
Oranges, on tree (box)	1.34	2.25	2.37
Apples, for fresh use (bu.)	2.38	2.32	3.05
Beef cattle (100 lb.)	19.70	20.60	23.00
Calves (100 lb.)	22.20	23.40	25.20
Hogs (100 lb.)	18.50	19.70	21.80
Lambs (100 lb.)	21.60	22.00	25.70
Chickens, all (lb.)	19.0	19.4	28.2
Eggs (dozen)	38.9	36.6	48.0

¹ Preliminary.

² Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62 cents per pound.

an all spring wheat crop of 171 million bushels would be produced. This compares with a production of 240 million bushels in 1957. Based on conditions as of December 1, 1957, a winter wheat crop of 906 million bushels was indicated for 1958. These add to a possible all wheat total of 1,077 million bushels, compared with the all wheat production of 947 million bushels in 1957. Any such calculations made this early in the year, however, should be considered only as very rough indications, and not as estimates.

Plans May be Altered Before Planting

Acreages actually planted in 1958 may turn out to be larger or smaller than indicated. Various reasons, such as weather, the agricultural program, and price changes, lead farmers to alter their plans. The Crop Reporting Board issues the intentions report in order to assist growers in making such further acreage changes as may appear desirable.

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1957			1958	
	Feb.	Yr.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) ¹	58.0	58.8	59.0	57.2	57.2
Farm employment.....	5.6	7.6	5.8	5.3	5.4
Family	4.7	5.8	4.7	4.4	4.5
Hired	1.0	1.8	1.0	.9	1.0
Index numbers (1947-49=100)					
Industrial production ²	146	143	135	133	130
Total personal income payments ³	168	170	170	170	-
Weekly factory earnings ⁴	165	163	157	149	145
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴	156	156	156	153	153
Wholesale prices, all commodities ⁴	117	118	118	119	119
Farm commodities	89	91	93	94	96
Food, processed	104	106	107	109	109
Consumer price index ⁴	119	120	122	122	-
Food	114	115	116	118	-
Index numbers (1910-14=100)					
Prices received by farmers	234	242	242	247	252
Crops.....	234	234	218	225	229
Food grains.....	235	225	221	217	219
Feed grains and hay.....	181	170	152	146	148
Cotton	255	264	239	232	211
Tobacco.....	458	465	466	474	475
Oil bearing crops	260	253	237	233	229
Fruit	221	214	180	183	200
Vegetables for fresh market.....	236	256	240	334	376
Livestock and products	234	249	264	267	273
Meat animals	249	278	294	308	324
Dairy products.....	266	263	275	269	266
Poultry and eggs	157	162	185	174	169
Prices paid by farmers					
All commodities	271	273	276	277	278
Used in living	284	286	289	289	290
Used in production.....	256	258	263	264	265
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index).....	293	296	299	301	302
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted.....	554	558	565	567	567
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index)	80	82	81	82	83

¹ Bureau of the Census, ² Federal Reserve Board,
³ Department of Commerce, ⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics.

More Rice Indicated

The indicated 86,000 acre increase in rice from last year is mainly from gains in Texas, Mississippi, and California where less acreage will be soil banked than last year. If intended seedlings materialize and if yields per acre equal the 1955-57 average by States, the 1958 production of rice would be 45.1 million equivalent 100-lb. bags, 4.5 percent above the 43.1 million bags produced last year.

Corn Situation Unsettled

For corn, the intended acreage, now indicated at 75.1 million acres, is much dependent upon the farmer's appraisal of acreage he will finally have signed in the Acreage Reserve after the March 28 withdrawal deadline. Farmers also may plant to corn some additional acres which they were prevented from planting to oats and other early crops because of too much wet weather. But if growers carry out their March 1 intentions and yields per planted acre equal the 1952-56 average, by States, the 1958 production would amount to 3.1 billion bushels, the same as the 1947-56 average but below the production of 3.4 billion bushels in 1957.

Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	January 1957	January 1958
<u>Dairy Production</u>			
Milk.....	Bil. lb.	¹ 19.1	¹ 19.3
Evaporated whole milk	Mil. lb.	163.2	145.0
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food)	Mil. lb.	130.7	142.7
Butter, creamery	Mil. lb.	116.1	118.1
Cheese, American	Mil. lb.	67.6	67.6
Ice cream	Mil. gal.	41.8	43.9
<u>Poultry Production</u>			
Eggs	Billions	¹ 10.3	¹ 10.0
Poultry meat ²	Mil. lb.	342	360
Canned poultry.....	Mil. lb.	17.1	25.0
Liquid egg	Mil. lb.	24.5	29.2
Dried egg (egg solids)	Mil. lb.	2.2	1.7
Frozen egg	Mil. lb.	14.1	21.3
Chicks hatched, total ³	Millions	¹ 338	¹ 371
Chicks hatched, broiler ³	Millions	¹ 251	¹ 275
Poults hatched ³			
Heavy breeds	Millions	¹ 9.1	¹ 7.0
Light breeds.....	Millions	¹ 1.9	¹ 1.8
<u>Meat Production²</u> (dressed weight)			
Beef	Mil. lb.	1,324	1,210
Veal	Mil. lb.	127	106
Pork	Mil. lb.	913	892
Lamb and mutton.....	Mil. lb.	72	59
Total red meat.....	Mil. lb.	2,436	2,267
<u>Slaughter²</u>			
Cattle.....	1,000 head	2,473	2,202
Calves	1,000 head	1,068	904
Hogs	1,000 head	6,880	6,714
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	1,489	1,196

¹ January-February.

³ By commercial hatcheries.

² Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

Prospects for Hay

The 72.5 million acres of hay in prospect should provide amply for livestock numbers, which included 2 percent less milk cows and 1 percent less all cattle and calves on January 1 than a year earlier. Pasture output, silage from corn, sorghum, hay crops and field clean-up this year also will have important effects on hay needs.

Smaller Tobacco Acreage Indicated

As of March 1, tobacco producers expressed intentions to plant 1,095,800 acres of all types of tobacco. Should this acreage materialize, it would be 2.4 percent below the 1,123,000 acres harvested last season and the smallest since 1908. The acreage of practically all types has been reduced as a result of Soil Bank participation, and further reductions from current intentions may develop for some types if additional funds for Soil Bank payments become available.

Flue-cured types are expected to total 651,300 acres--2 percent below the 662,700 acres harvested last year and the lowest since 1932.

Burley growers plan to set 302,600 acres this season compared with 306,100 acres estimated cut last year.

Except in Hard-Hit Areas, Crops Favorable

Prospects for crops to March 1 were generally favorable except for the Southeastern and South Central areas, where the season continued much too cold and wet for good early crop growth.

Good Prospects in Great Plains and West

Great Plains winter wheat continued to have excellent prospects. In the Northern Plains and most of the West, winter has been unusually open, helping livestock and saving feed.

Moisture Reserves Adequate to Plentiful

Soil moisture is plentifully stored throughout the great central farming area, and water prospects in most Western irrigation sections appear adequate to plentiful.

Citrus Production Below Last Year and Average

Oranges and tangerines (1957-58 season) at 115.6 million boxes, compare with 136.7 million a year earlier and 121.9 million average production. Grapefruit, at 40.8 million boxes, compares with 44.8 million last season and 46.5 million average. Lemons, at 15.6 million boxes, compare with 16.2 million a year ago and 13.0 million average. The orange crop is the smallest since 1949-50; grapefruit, smallest since the 1952-53 season.

Smaller Winter Potato Crop

Production of winter potatoes, at 4,780,000 hundredweight is down from last year by 30 percent. The reduction from the 4,975,000 cwt. estimated in February is due to lower yields because of additional weather damage in Florida. Present estimate is above the 1949-56 average production by 27 percent.

Acreage for harvest of early spring potatoes is estimated at 31,800 acres, 1 percent above that of 1957 and 32 percent above the 1949-56 average.

Smaller Storage Stocks of Potatoes

Storage stocks of fall potatoes held by growers and local dealers March 1 totaled 47.4 million cwt., smaller than a year ago by 20 percent and 9 percent below the average for the years 1949-56.

CURRENT ESTIMATES

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings by States, January 1958¹

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Maine.....	9,539	9,005	18,544
New Hampshire.....	4,785	747	5,532
Vermont.....	9,066	755	9,821
Massachusetts.....	10,231	3,276	13,507
Rhode Island.....	1,262	445	1,707
Connecticut.....	9,543	4,237	13,780
New York.....	50,810	14,297	65,107
New Jersey.....	16,526	3,806	20,332
Pennsylvania.....	48,989	13,151	62,140
Ohio.....	55,510	23,912	79,422
Indiana.....	59,492	33,853	93,345
Illinois.....	101,640	88,661	190,301
Michigan.....	34,744	20,180	54,924
Wisconsin.....	84,368	11,195	95,563
Minnesota.....	85,846	40,201	126,047
Iowa.....	173,686	65,016	238,702
Missouri.....	58,687	19,267	77,954
North Dakota.....	17,462	29,628	47,090
South Dakota.....	47,053	18,658	65,711
Nebraska.....	75,640	49,192	124,832
Kansas.....	54,365	40,085	94,450
Delaware.....	5,843	1,075	6,918
Maryland.....	15,260	1,935	17,195
Virginia.....	18,855	15,524	34,379
West Virginia.....	5,390	1,900	7,290
North Carolina.....	21,265	16,198	37,463
South Carolina.....	7,367	5,919	13,286
Georgia.....	29,805	9,100	38,905
Florida.....	15,623	50,014	65,637
Kentucky.....	20,397	35,632	56,029
Tennessee.....	17,411	20,897	38,308
Alabama.....	19,315	8,426	27,741
Mississippi.....	13,919	24,193	38,112
Arkansas.....	14,472	25,012	39,484
Louisiana.....	10,909	24,092	35,001
Oklahoma.....	26,215	13,573	39,788
Texas.....	71,552	155,596	227,148
Montana.....	16,203	26,984	43,187
Idaho.....	15,228	17,764	32,992
Wyoming.....	3,581	2,341	5,922
Colorado.....	29,220	20,290	49,510
New Mexico.....	8,437	9,718	18,155
Arizona.....	8,263	36,498	44,761
Utah.....	9,584	2,530	12,114
Nevada.....	3,419	833	4,252
Washington.....	17,724	28,732	46,456
Oregon.....	14,902	14,258	29,160
California.....	87,680	112,110	199,790
United States.....	1,537,083	1,170,711	2,707,794

¹ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

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Cash Receipts from Farming and Index of Volume of Farm Marketings, United States¹

	January 1958	February 1958 ²
CASH RECEIPTS:	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
Total marketings and CCC loans ²	2,708	2,000
Livestock and products	1,537	1,300
Meat animals	886	
Dairy products	377	
Poultry and eggs	246	
Other	28	
Crops	1,171	700
Food grains	121	
Feed crops	365	
Cotton (lint and seed)	228	
Oil-bearing crops	108	
Tobacco	61	
Vegetables	94	
Fruits and tree nuts	85	
Other	109	
Government payments	45	
Grand total	2,753	
VOLUME OF FARM MARKETINGS:	1947-49 = 100	
All commodities	126	92
Livestock and products	122	105
Crops	130	76

¹For comparison with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. ²Preliminary. ³Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-Retail Spread and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Farm-retail spread	Farmer's share
1957 average	1,007	400	607	40
1957 January	978	389	589	40
1957 December	1,016	413	603	41
1958 January	1,042	420	622	40

¹Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

Smaller Vegetable Production

Early vegetables have fared poorly, both in harvest and planting from Texas eastward. Winter vegetable production in the Nation is down 15 percent from 1957 and 17 percent below average, largely due to unfavorable weather in Florida.

Milk Production up Slightly from a Year Ago

The 9.5 billion pounds of milk produced in February totaled about one-half of 1 percent more than for the same month last year and 12 percent more than the February 1947-56 average. Production in February was enough to provide 1.96 pounds of milk daily to each person in the U. S. This was 1 percent less than in February last year but 2 percent more than the 10-year average for that month. Production rate per milk cow was a record high for March 1 in all sections of the country.

Egg Output Down 5% from Year Ago

Farm flocks laid 4,753 million eggs during February--5 percent less than in February 1957. All regions show decreases except the West where production was up 6 percent.

Farm Employment at All-Time Low

Farm employment during the week of February 16-22 was the smallest on record for this date. Largely because of bad weather, total of 5,439,000 persons working on farms was down 3 percent from a year earlier. Of the total at work, 4,482,000 were farm operators and members of their families and 957,000 were hired workers.

Number of Farms Continues Downward

The number of farms in operation in 1957 totaled 4,856,000, according to estimates of the Crop Reporting Board. This means a decline of more than a million farms in 10 years, or 17 percent. Decrease from a year earlier was 2.3 percent. Preliminary estimates for 1958--4,750,000 farms in operation.